

Henry Marie Brackenridge to Andrew Jackson, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

HENRY M. BRACKENRIDGE TO JACKSON.

Pensacola, July 8, 1821.

dear General, We have been at work all morning, in marking and signing the publick records according to the idea you have suggested. But without occular examination it is difficult to have a correct notion of what they are. I have sent with Captn. Call merely the notes of the marks etc. put upon them, intending to make out a formal paper to be signed by us. The records relate only to transactions between citizen and citizen; bills of sale, transfers, and protests; the United States government is no further interested than to see the citizen protected in his rights. There is not a single original grant among them. You will perceive that these consist of unbound books containing from five to one hundred pages, for the first years one unbound book yearly was sufficient, afterwards three or four a year were required: these last are put up in separate packages intended to form a book, and are numbered 1, 2 and 3. They are so different from any records that we are accustomed to that we had to adapt our plan according to their pecul[i]ar character. On some we have put both the letter of the alphabet and the number, when one or the other would have sufficed, but we thought it prudent abundanti cautela. The marks we have put are sufficient to identify the unbound books—it will scarcely be possible to substitute another for any one of them. This precaution is taken by us for the interests of the people here, for the United States have no interest further than this.

The Governor appeared somewhat out of humor on the subject of the Process verbal, but on explanation changed his tone. The fault was committed by his secretary. It is all

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rectified. The papers are prepared exactly according to the form sent to him, word for word.

The wind is now favorable and we may expect the vessels from St. Marks, this evening or tomorrow.¹

¹ It was July 9, at 11 a. m., that the vessels bringing the Spaniards from St. Marks arrived at Pensacola.

I am most respectfully